

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04378 250952Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4125

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO VISIT OF HABIB-BROWN TEAM

REF: SEOUL 4237 (DTG 200853T MAY 77)

SUMMARY: HEAVY COVERAGE GIVEN ACTIVITIES OF HABIB-BROWN TEAM EVINCES GREAT INTEREST OF KOREAN PUBLIC IN RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS, BUT PAPERS COULD NOT PROVIDE READERS WITH SOLID INFORMATION ON TALKS STARTING TODAY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 24-25, KOREAN NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED ARRIVAL OF HABIB-BROWN TEAM WITH QUOTES FROM ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND FRONT-PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF TEAM AT KIMPO AIRPORT. TONGA ILBO AND HAN'GUK ILBO RAN FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT ON FRONT PAGES. OTHER STORIES INCLUDED SCHEDULE FOR HABIB TEAM IN SEOUL AND DISPATCHES FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS CITING "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" TO EFFECT BASIC U.S. PLAN IS TO WITHDRAW THREE BRIGADES COMPRISING SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION ONE AT A TIME, AT ABOUT ONE-YEAR INTERVALS.

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2. STORIES ON INSIDE PAGES INCLUDED AP WASHINGTON STORY FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SOURCES TO EFFECT U.S. JOINT CHIEFS HAD ACCEPTED CARTER'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW GROUND TROOPS WITHOUT FORMAL OBJECTION, BUT ALSO "WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM." OTHER BACKGROUND STORIES DESCRIBED HOW HABIB CAME FIRST IN DELEGATION ALTHOUGH HE HAD CONFUSED REPORTERS AT THE

AIRPORT BY URGING BROWN OUT OF THE PLANE IN FRONT OF HIM.
ITEMS IN AFTERNOON TONGA ILBO AND CHUNGANG ILBO REFLECTED
DISSATISFACTION OF SOME WITH FACT "CONVICTED CRIMINALS"
YUN PO-SON AND CHONG IL-HYONG HAVE BEEN INVITED TO
AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S RECEPTION MAY 26. NEARLY IDENTICAL
HAPTONG WIRE ITEM MAY 25 CREDITS THESE REMARKS TO "OFFICIAL
SOURCES," BUT TONGA ARTICLE INDICATES OFFICIAL COMPLAINT WILL
NOT BE MADE.

3. ONLY EDITORIAL MAY 25, IN NATIONALISTIC CHOSON ILBO,
CALLS FOR U.S.-ROK "REALISTIC GUARANTEE" FOR ROK SECURITY,
URGING IN ADDITION U.S. SUPPORT FOR ROK WEAPON PRODUCTION,
RAISING ROK TO MOST-FAVORED CATEGORY AMONG COUNTRIES FOR
FOREIGN MILITARY SALES, ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. WILL NOT
ATTEMPT SOLUTION OF KOREAN PROBLEM UNLESS ROK PRESENT,
AND NEW MILITARY GUARANTEES.
SNEIDER

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